

## Tyson, Jo HLTH:EX

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**From:** Docs Processing HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 20, 2013 1:36 PM  
**To:** Scott, Heidi HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Docs Processing HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** MLA Don McRae re s.22  
**Attachments:** Consent Forms for s.22

Hi Heidi:

The attached bulleted information has been prepared by Pharmaceutical Services Division and approved by Barbara Walman, ADM, and by Elaine McKnight, CAO.

Thanks so much,

Kathy Simonson  
Program Coordinator / Correspondence & Documents Management / Ministry of Health  
5-2 1515 Blanshard St, Victoria BC V8W 3C8 Telephone 250 952-1811  
[kathy.simonson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:kathy.simonson@gov.bc.ca)

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Scott, Heidi HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2013 2:06 PM  
**To:** Docs Processing HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** MLA Bullets: s.22

Hello,

I'm requesting MLA bullets to the MO regarding s.22 Please see attached consent form/ email below from MLA McRae and provide specifics regarding this file.

Thank you,  
Heidi

-----Original Message-----

**From:** McRae, Don SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 12, 2013 1:53 PM  
**To:** Scott, Heidi HLTH:EX  
**Subject:**

Heidi,

I have a constituent in my office, s.22 is taking a drug called Aclasta to assist with a medical condition. The drug is not covered by Pharmacare but costs 800/shot. Is there any chance that the cost could or ever will be covered? While it is expensive, the down side of not taking the medication will be far more expensive to the health budget. Any insight/assistance in this manner would be much appreciated. s.22 is going in for s.22 shot next week and would like some assistance with this matter.

Not Responsive

-----Original Message-----

From: Facey, Nick HLTH:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2013 1:17 PM  
To: O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
Subject: FW: Attn: Michelle Stilwell Re: S. 22 MSP

-----Original Message-----

From: Stilwell.MLA, Michelle [mailto:Michelle.Stilwell.MLA@leg.bc.ca]

HTH-2013-00344  
Page 2

Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2013 12:16 PM  
To: Facey, Nick HLTH:EX  
Subject: Fwd: Attn: Michelle Stilwell Re: S.22 MSP

Nick,

Could you forward this on to staff to follow up on my behalf? S.22  
S.22 Please have them cc me so I can follow progress. Thank you.

S.22

From: S.22  
Date: 19 June. 2013 10:06:28 AM PDT  
To: S.22  
S.22  
Subject: Fwd: Attn: Michelle Stilwell Re: S.22

Subject: Attn: Michelle Stilwell Re S.22

Good Morning Michelle,

S.22

Please see below a list of issues and additional details:

S.22

Page 4 redacted for the following reason:

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S.22

**Tyson, Jo HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Docs Processing HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, July 5, 2013 9:33 AM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Docs Processing HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** MLA Michelle Stilwell Re: S. 22 MSP Account and reimbursement of monies taken from his Income Tax Return (CLIFF 985269)  
**Attachments:** 20130620151729.pdf

Hi Kellie,

The following information has been provided by HIBC and approved by Guy Cookson, ED, BMO:

S. 22

If anything further is required, please let us know.

Regards,  
Robin Pascoe  
Documents Processing  
Ministry of Health  
Phone: (250) 952-2636  
Email: robin.pascoe@gov.bc.ca

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Not Responsive

Not Responsive

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**From:** Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX [<mailto:HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2013 7:06 AM  
**To:** Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Contact MLA Form Submitted From Legislative Assembly Web Site

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**From:** Foster.MLA, Eric[SMTP:ERIC.FOSTER.MLA@LEG.BC.CA]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2013 7:06:14 AM  
**To:** S. 22  
**Cc:** Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Contact MLA Form Submitted From Legislative Assembly Web Site  
**Auto forwarded by a Rule**



Thank you for your email,

I will be sharing your comments with the Minister, thank you.

eric

*Mr. Eric Foster*  
*Government Caucus Whip*

MLA Vernon Monashee

3209 31st Avenue  
Vernon, BC, V1T 2H2  
Tel: (250) 503-3600  
Fax: (250) 503-3603



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

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**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** June-22-13 11:38 AM  
**To:** Foster.MLA, Eric  
**Subject:** Contact MLA Form Submitted From Legislative Assembly Web Site

**Name:**

S. 22

**Email:**

**Message:** An opportunity for positive change has presented itself at the Provincial Health Services Authority, as a caring MLA, please make sure Minister Lake acts to realise it for all of us. PHSA's Cranston resignation is NOT a loss for British Columbians but rather, a first step to saving the lives of hundreds of time sensitive condition critical care patients in BC each year. Unfortunately, her replacement, Carl Roy, will be no better for all these patients as he, along with the entire PHSA board, all continue to fail BC's time sensitive condition patients. FYI, today in BC, hundreds of patients continue to die from completely treatable conditions each year due largely to the many and extreme dysfunctions and shortcomings of the BC Ambulance Service, which is one of the PHSA branches. These patients are dying from conditions and injuries that rarely cause death in other more modern, more capable EMS systems (and this, for literally decades!) The BC Ambulance Service needs to be completely overhaul, starting with its leadership, now that Cranston is gone, I hope the new Health minister, Terry Lake, will appoint someone that understands that the BCAS approach is long outdated and grossly overly costly to the rest of our health care system; the BCAS' 'lowest-cost-per-patient-transported' approach does NOT ensure 'best-possible-patient-outcome' quite the opposite, in fact, the two are mutually exclusive. The facts support that 'Enhanced EMS' saves lives, and; that it saves socialized societies many more times what it costs, and that is what our EMS / BCAS system MUST be changed (to soonest), it is simply unsustainable to continue to let people die (and keep generating at least 10 that number in permanent injuries and long term care patients) - unfortunately that is what our present BC Ambulance Service is all too good

S. 22

## Tyson, Jo HLTH:EX

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**From:** Scott, Heidi HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 2, 2013 2:53 PM  
**To:** Docs Processing HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** MLA Linda Reid re Special Authorization for Blood Test for Diagnosing Menieres Disease - due Friday, July 12 (Cliff 985876)

Hello, please see the message below taken from a fax received from MLA Reids office. She would like to know more about the test for diagnosing "Menieres disease."

Please have bullets made and sent back to the MO. Thanks, Heidi

### **Fax message from MLA Linda Reid Reads:**

A constituent's physician has apparently put in 3 special authorization requests for a blood test for "Menieres disease."

Please provide me the cost of the test and where the sample is sent for testing so I can better understand the nature of the request. The physician has apparently not heard back over the previous five months.

Heidi Scott| Administrative Assistant  
to the Honourable Terry Lake  
Minister of Health  
Room 337 P: 250 953 3547



**Tyson, Jo HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Scott, Heidi HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, July 12, 2013 8:56 AM  
**To:** Docs Processing HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: MLA Linda Reid re Special Authorization for Blood Tests for Diagnosing Menieres Disease (Cliff 985876)

Nothing is required further at this time, MLA Reids office may decide to submit a consent form but we can start a new file if that happens.

Not Responsive

Not Responsive

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**From:** Scott, Heidi HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 2, 2013 2:53 PM  
**To:** Docs Processing HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** MLA Linda Reid re Special Authorization for Blood Tests for Diagnosing Menieres

Hello, please see the message below taken from a fax received from MLA Reids office. She would like to know more about the test for diagnosing "Menieres disease."

Please have bullets made and sent back to the MO. Thanks, Heidi

**Fax message from MLA Linda Reid Reads:**

A constituent's physician has apparently put in 3 special authorization requests for a blood test for "Menieres disease."

Please provide me the cost of the test and where the sample is sent for testing so I can better understand the nature of the request. The physician has apparently not heard back over the previous five months.

Heidi Scott| Administrative Assistant

HTH-2013-00344  
Page 10

Not Responsive

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** S. 22  
**Date:** 18 June, 2013 5:26:28 PM PDT  
**To:** <[Michelle.Stilwell.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Michelle.Stilwell.mla@leg.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Problem with my new health care card after waiting almost 6 months .

MLA Michelle Stilwell  
Parksville / Qualicum

Pages 12 through 13 redacted for the following reasons:

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s.22

## Tyson, Jo HLTH:EX

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**From:** Docs Processing HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 16, 2013 12:04 PM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Docs Processing HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** MLA Michelle Stilwell re S. 22 - Health Care Card Issue (CLIFF 985904)  
**Attachments:** 20130702160234.pdf; FW: Card issue

Hi Kellie,

The following information has been provided by HIBC and approved by Guy Cookson, ED:

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- *The BC Services Card project has been challenged matching clients at ICBC front counters with Health Insurance BC clients when names appear differently on identity documents (eg. CareCard, Certificate of Canadian Citizenship, Driver's Licence).*
- *To enhance security and manage this issue, for the purposes of the BC Services Card and Driver's Licence, ICBC requires the client's name recorded on both credentials to match the name from the primary document supplied by the client. That means the name from any foundational document including birth certificates and landed immigrant documents.*
- 

S. 22

S. 22

If anything further is required, please let us know.

Regards,  
Robin Pascoe  
Documents Processing  
Ministry of Health  
Phone: (250) 952-2636  
Email: robin.pascoe@gov.bc.ca

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**From:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 2, 2013 4:30 PM  
**To:** Docs Processing HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** FW: S. 22

MLA bullets to MO

Not Responsive

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**From:** Bryce, Krista D [mailto:Krista.Bryce@leg.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2013 12:11 PM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Card issue

Kellie,

S. 22

s.22 has a copy of his health care number, but wants a card.

s.22

And will also fill out a consent form if needed.

Thanks!

Krista Bryce  
Constituency Assistant for  
Michelle Stilwell, MLA  
Parksville-Qualicum

Not Responsive

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**From:** Norm Letnick S. 22  
**Sent:** June-28-13 1:30 PM  
**To:** Quigley, Janta  
**Subject:** FW: New location in Nanaimo

Janta,

Please contact MofH and ask if Health Authorities follow a common policy for determining the min size of kitchens for restaurants and pubs. Also need to know if there is a difference in policy between restaurants and pubs. S. 22 says pubs serve much less food and therefore have a much less chance of cross contamination etc (should not need as big a kitchen per seat as restaurants)

Norm

---

**From:** S. 22  
**Sent:** June 28, 2013 11:39 AM  
**To:** 'Norm Letnick'  
**Cc:** S. 22  
**Subject:** RE: New location in Nanaimo

Norm

We got our plans stamped by VIHA for 165 seats!!!⊗ Now that we have them I would appreciate if you would look into this process by the health board. I am really curious to find out why they do not have specific regulations for the size of kitchen anymore except to say it is 7 to 9 square feet per seat, this leaves way to much up to the discretion of individual inspectors which is wrong, in the common sense way of looking at things.

I contacted Ian Tostenson, the CEO of the BCRFA, and he was shocked at the process I just went through. He was unaware of the changes and he thought it odd that this is the first he has heard of it, because restaurateurs are pretty anal when it comes to the design of their operations. He thought that perhaps this could be a situation that is only connected with the VIHA as he was sure that he would have come across already if the code was changed 18 months ago.

So Norm, if we can get your help with this situation it would go a long way to ease our frustration with the situation in Nanaimo.

Your Truly

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S. 22

**From:** Norm Letnick S. 22  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2013 3:20 PM  
**To:** S. 22  
**Subject:** Re: New location in Nanaimo

Call me. S. 22

Sent from my iPad

On 2013-06-27, at 2:29 PM,

S. 22

wrote:

<image001.gif>  
Norm

S. 22



Not Responsive

**From:** Stilwell.MLA, Michelle [<mailto:Michelle.Stilwell,MLA@leg.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 8, 2013 3:18 PM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Request for support - S. 22

Hi Kellie,

I have attached a certificate of authority for one of my constituents. I personally filled it out as  
s.22 Hope that is okay.

s.22

Michelle

Not Responsive

**From:** McRae, Don SDSI:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 25, 2013 2:45 PM  
**To:** Loiacono, Sabrina HLTH:EX  
**Subject:**

Sabrina, I'm meeting with a constituent on Friday on a rather contentious issue <http://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/island-family-recounts-journey-of-a-transgender-child-growing-up-in-small-town-comox-1.625125>

s.12

Any support from MoH would be much appreciated.

Don

Sent from my iPhone

Not Responsive

**From:** "Thomson.MLA, Steve" <[Steve.Thomson.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Steve.Thomson.MLA@leg.bc.ca)>  
**To:** "Lake, Terry HLTH:EX" <[Terry.Lake@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Terry.Lake@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** S. 22

Terry:

s.22

s.22 has asked if there can be any process for consideration of an exception to the current policy to provide some MPS coverage for the required treatment, estimated to be in the range of \$12,000 just for the next phase of treatment.

Thanks for taking a look at this. If you have any questions you can contact Nan Pellatt here at our constituency office.

Steve

Not Responsive

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**From:** Reimer, Linda [<mailto:L.Reimer@leg.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2013 10:53 PM  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX; Dobrowolski, Dayna HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Acosta Sowerby, Isabel LASS:EX  
**Subject:** Eagle Ridge Hospital

Terry/Dayna,

As you know Eagle Ridge Hospital in my riding and Fraser Health have been working on its Master Plan to increase capacity at the hospital.

MLA Horne and I met with the Hospital Foundation a few weeks ago. There was some confusion around what stages of this plan have been funded by Treasury Board, and am wondering if you could please shed some light on this for me? What has been funded and what has not? Has Fraser Health been given some money for this that they are not releasing? Are they sitting on some funding?

Many thanks for any help you can provide, Linda

Linda Reimer, MLA  
Port Moody-Coquitlam

S. 22

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

**Legislative Office:**  
Room 200, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4  
Telephone: 250 953-0916  
Facsimile: 250 387-9100  
e-mail: sam.sullivan.mla@leg.bc.ca

**Vancouver-False Creek  
Constituency Office:**  
201 - 1168 Hamilton Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2S2  
Telephone: 604 775-2601  
Facsimile: 604 775-2607



**Province of  
British Columbia**  
Legislative Assembly



Sam Sullivan, M.L.A.  
Vancouver-False Creek

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Dear Minister Lake,

There has been some media around the Federal Government intervening with the Health Ministry regarding people who have long-term addictions. The medical trial is called SALOME and it is attempting to develop new techniques to reduce crime and profits for the organized illegal drug trade and provide more effective treatments for those with chronic problems. This medical trial was supported by the provincial government for \$6.4 million and by the federal government for \$1 million. I personally raised over \$200,000 to get this established and the group I helped set up – Inner Change Society – put in \$1 million. This money came from a number of philanthropists including Don Rix, the Aquilinis, etc.

This federal intervention will likely cost additional money to the provincial health budget and will influence our ability to manage the social problems related to drug addiction. Unfortunately the people being quoted in the media do not represent the people who have done the hard work to get this trial going including Kevin Falcon and John Reynolds [former leader of the Conservative Party] and Patricia Daly and Providence Health Care. If you need any further information I would be happy to facilitate.

Sam Sullivan, M.L.A.  
Vancouver-False Creek

MINISTER'S OFFICE HEALTH	
#	995467
DRAFT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REPLY <input type="checkbox"/>
REPLY <input type="checkbox"/>	OCT 7 2013
FYI <input type="checkbox"/>	REPLY DIRECT <input type="checkbox"/>
	FILE <input type="checkbox"/>
REMARKS	
<input type="checkbox"/> AA	<input type="checkbox"/> MA
<input type="checkbox"/> EA	<input type="checkbox"/> CCU
	<input type="checkbox"/> SA
	<input type="checkbox"/> CM

Not Responsive

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Gibson, Simon" <[S.Gibson@leg.bc.ca](mailto:S.Gibson@leg.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** 7 October, 2013 1:31:08 PM PDT  
**To:** "Lake, Terry HLTH:EX" <[Terry.Lake@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Terry.Lake@gov.bc.ca)>, "Lake.MLA, Terry LASS:EX" <[Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Terry.Lake.MLA@leg.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** SPIRITUAL CARE IN FRASER HEALTH REGION

Minister Lake:

I have been receiving a significant number of comments from constituents regarding Fraser Health's decision to abandon spiritual care at the various hospitals and other health care facilities. I am given to understand that Fraser Health is the only region not providing spiritual care as part of its service to residents.

Just today, I received a huge pile of individual letters expressing concern that we do not have spiritual care in this health care region. I do agree with these people that spiritual care accelerates healing and gives emotional sustenance to many patients, particularly those who are elderly and lonely.

Spiritual care offers a huge benefit to patients. I wish to take this opportunity to request that you ask staff to look into the matter. I do appreciate that Fraser Health operates with

considerable autonomy; however, the issue of consistency may be worth examining on a Province-wide basis.

(I will forward an original package of correspondence to your office in order that your staff can review the points made. This package applies specifically to the Abbotsford Regional Hospital, but the issue pervades the entire region.)

Thanks you, Minister Lake, for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

**Simon Gibson**

MLA for Abbotsford-Mission

**Government Caucus of British Columbia**

☎P: (250) 387-8153 📠F: (250) 387-9100



The Hon. Terry Lake  
Minister of Health  
Victoria

Minister Lake:

RE: SPIRITUAL CARE IN FRASER REGION

Further to my Email, I am forwarding a collection of letters requesting spiritual care be re-instituted at Abbotsford Regional Hospital. This issue applies to all health care facilities in the region.

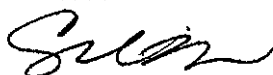
As noted, Fraser Health is the only region which does not provide spiritual care to patients.

Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

Simon Gibson

PS Note: The enclosed correspondence has also been distributed to the two other Abbotsford area MLAs – Hon Michael DeJong and Darryl Plecas.



Simon Gibson

MLA for Abbotsford-Mission

Government Caucus of British Columbia

☎P: (250) 387-8153 ☎F: (250) 387-9100



MINISTER'S OFFICE HEALTH	
#	995861
DRAFT REPLY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OCT 11 2013
FYI <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> REPLY DIRECT
REMARKS	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE
<input type="checkbox"/> AA	<input type="checkbox"/> MA
<input type="checkbox"/> EA	<input type="checkbox"/> CCU
	<input type="checkbox"/> SA <input type="checkbox"/> DM



**From:** Morris, Kirsty L [Kirsty.Morris@leg.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:52 PM  
**To:** Health, HLTH HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** FW: FROM SIMON G RE- CHAPLAINCY/SPIRITUAL CARE

---

**From:** Gibson, Simon  
**Sent:** October 28, 2013 3:41 PM  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX; Lake.MLA, Terry  
**Subject:** FROM SIMON G RE- CHAPLAINCY/SPIRITUAL CARE

Minister Lake:

Just prior to Treasury Board last week, you advised of some changes with regard to the administration – as I recall – to spiritual care/chaplaincy in the various Health Regions. I would be interested in hearing more about that, should you have the opportunity to pass along some information. As you know, there has been a high level of interest in restoring some spiritual care services at the Abbotsford Hospital. Staff here in our constituency office have taken the liberty of forwarding this bundle of supporting correspondence to your attention.

Thanks, Minister, for your interest in this matter.  
Regards,

Simon G. 604 820 6203

**Simon Gibson**  
MLA for Abbotsford-Mission  
Government Caucus of British Columbia  
P: (250) 387-8153 F: (250) 387-9100





997353

Mr. Simon Gibson  
MLA, Abbotsford-Mission  
33058 First Ave  
Mission BC V2V 1G3

Dear Mr. Gibson, *Simon*

Thank you for your email of October 28, 2013, with regards to spiritual care in BC. This correspondence comes as a follow-up to the information bullets on this subject provided to your office on October 24, 2013.

As you may be aware, the Ministry has requested a comprehensive update from the health authority Vice Presidents of Human Resources on the implementation of the *Spiritual Health – a Framework for British Columbia's Spiritual Health Professionals* document, including further information on the number of spiritual care professionals practising in each health authority and their plans with respect to the profession going forward. We are currently receiving and compiling this data and will be able to provide an update to you when completed.

I hope this information is useful to you; I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Terry Lake".

Terry Lake  
Minister

Not Responsive

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**From:** Stilwell, Michelle [<mailto:MK.Stilwell@leg.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2013 4:39 PM  
**To:** Dobrowolski, Dayna HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Oncotype DX

I am wondering if you can look into the status of the funding decision for Oncotype DX for breast cancer. Let me know if you need more details on it.

Thanks,

Michelle Stilwell  
MLA Parksville Qualicum

Not Responsive

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Dalton.MLA, Marc" <[Marc.Dalton.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Marc.Dalton.MLA@leg.bc.ca)>

**To:** "Lake, Terry HLTH:EX" <[Terry.Lake@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Terry.Lake@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** S. 22

S. 22

**Subject:** FW: eye exam fees

S. 22

my office. Is this an issue that is expected to be addressed in the near or longer term future? Please see attached.

Thanks

Marc Dalton, MLA

Maple Ridge-Mission

S. 22

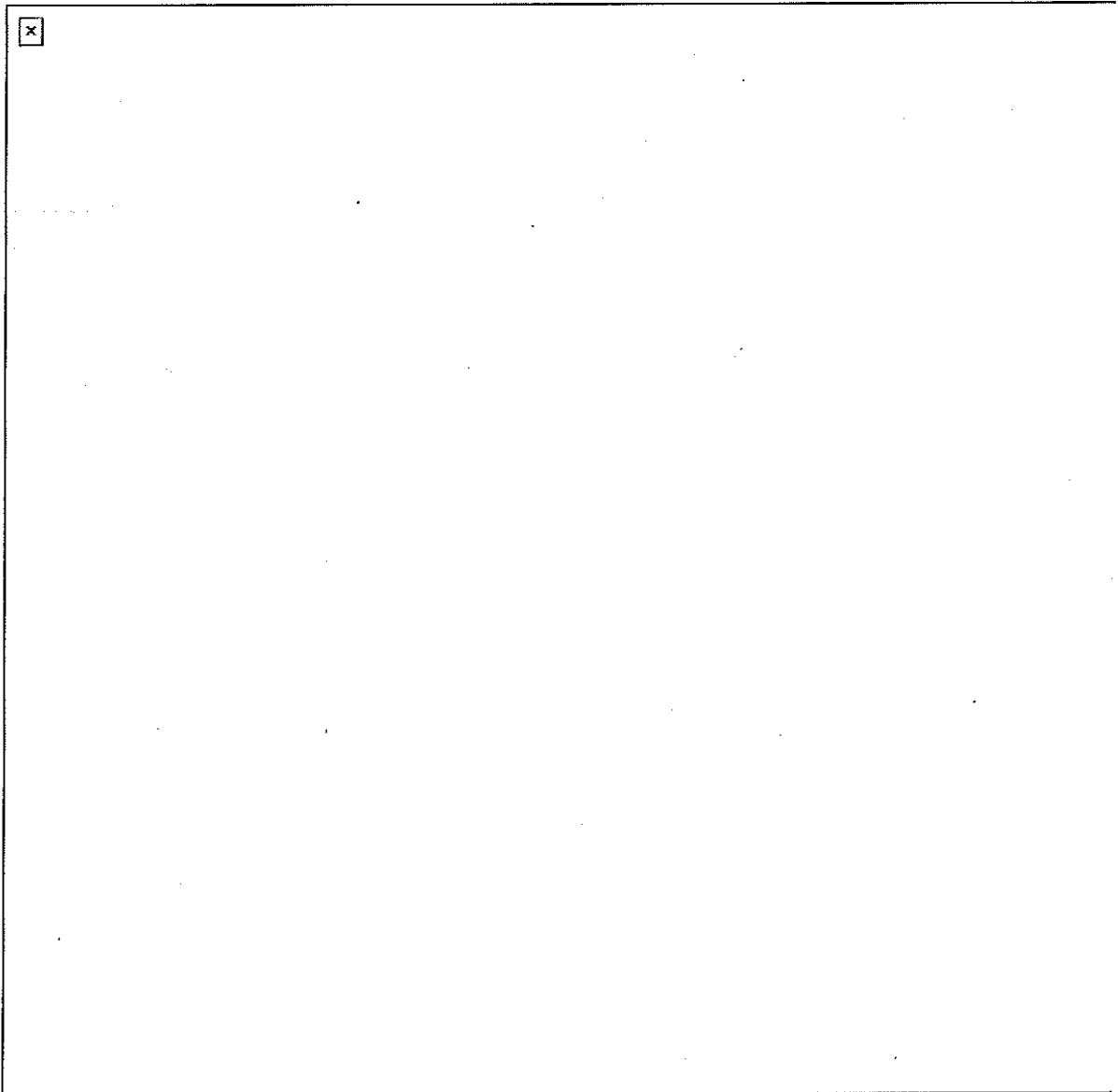
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 8:22 PM  
To: Dalton.MLA, Marc  
Subject: eye exam fees

Hi Marc

Please read attachment referring to eye exam fees and send me your feedback on that.

Thanks

S. 22



**Legislative Office:**  
East Annex, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4  
Phone: 250 952-7270  
Fax: 250 387-9100

**Constituency Office:**  
10 - 7300 Vedder Road  
Chilliwack, B.C. V2R 4G6  
Phone: 604 858-5299  
Fax: 604 858-5290  
website: [www.lauriethronessmla.ca](http://www.lauriethronessmla.ca)  
e-mail: [laurie.throness.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:laurie.throness.mla@leg.bc.ca)



**Province of  
British Columbia  
Legislative Assembly**



Laurie Throness, M.L.A.  
Chilliwack-Hope

November 14, 2013

Hon. Terry Lake  
Minister of Health  
Legislative Buildings  
Victoria, BC  
V8V 1X4

*Terry*  
Dear Minister:

MINISTER'S OFFICE HEALTH		
# 998723		
DRAFT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOV 20 2013	REPLY DIRECT <input type="checkbox"/>
REPLY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		FILE <input type="checkbox"/>
FYI <input type="checkbox"/>		
REMARKS		
<input type="checkbox"/> AA	<input type="checkbox"/> MA	<input type="checkbox"/> SA
<input type="checkbox"/> EA	<input type="checkbox"/> CCU	<input type="checkbox"/> DM

Recently I had an interesting discussion with a constituent who is knowledgeable in the area of residential care for seniors, and she made suggestions worthy of your attention, based on principles that I think are sound. I address each in turn:

1. All facilities should receive equal treatment. Presently some senior's facilities are regulated under the Hospital Act, and some under the Continuing Care Act. This means that some homes have advantages that others don't; for example, those regulated under the Hospital Act receive free pharmacy. This makes it difficult for private facilities to compete.
2. There should be equal standards for complex care, so that it doesn't matter where a senior lives. Presently there are no province-wide standards for complex care that equalize what must be provided by for-profit, nonprofit and Health Authority owned-and-operated facilities. This means that some seniors suffer worse care than others. As standards vary widely between institutions, it matters very much where a senior lives.
3. Seniors should have a choice where to live. Presently a senior who needs complex care is placed on a waiting list, and directed to the next available publicly-funded bed. That bed may be in a different community, or in a room with multiple occupants, or in a poorly-run facility. While regulations might attempt to mandate solutions, the problem could be more simply rectified by providing for consumer choice and competition. If the senior (and family), upon being allocated a publicly-funded bed, were to be able to choose the institution of their choice, they would choose the best one. This would give all institutions the incentive to compete for the choice of the senior through upgrades to living spaces and services. The worst places would have to change, or cease to exist. This would raise the quality of life of all seniors in complex care.

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Looking to the future of an aging population, we need to put in place the incentives that will provide them with the best quality of care. Thank you in advance for considering and responding to these suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurie Throness".

Laurie Throness

bc